

Serial Number: 10/708,469  
Filed: 3/5/2004

**US BLOCK IP**

### Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by *Mulvihill*. The present invention claims a grounding assembly for the outer conductor of a *plurality* of individual electrical cables, the grounding assembly having a ground strap with a plurality of cable receiving portions, ... *each* of the cable receiving portions adapted to mate with ... the outer conductor of *each* of the electrical cables; the grounding assembly having retaining and support insulators.

The Examiner identifies "a ground strap 36 with a plurality of cable receiving portions (A)". Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's reference "A", identified handmarked by the Examiner upon a copy of *Mulvihill* figure 3 included with the Official Action, is plainly a ground strap 36 adapted for only a single electrical cable, not the claimed plurality of electrical cables. As shown in figures 4 and 5, even if the cited reference was adapted for multiple cables, *separate* pairs of ground strap(s) 36, 38 would be required for *each* cable.

Further, in *Mulvihill* the retaining insulator 34 and support insulator 32 identified by the Examiner are in fact not insulators at all but conductive grounding block(s) 32, 34 through which the separate grounding strap(s) of each cable are electrically coupled to the selected mounting point (col. 2 ln 44-52).

Therefore, with respect to claims 1-4, the cited reference fails to include:

- 1) a cable assembly for a plurality of electrical cables including a ground strap with a plurality of cable receiving portions, each of the cable receiving portions of the ground strap adapted to mate with the outer conductor of each of the plurality of electrical cables.
- and /or
- 2) a retaining and a support insulator.

As each and every element of the present non-obvious invention fails to appear in the cited reference, rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Mulvihill* in view of *Waddell*. The Examiner states that *Mulvihill* teaches the invention except for an aperture and a flange, for which *Waddell* is supplied. As described in detail herein above *Mulvihill* fails to teach, disclose or suggest multiple elements of the invention as claimed in claim 1, from which claims 7-9 further depend. These missing elements also fail to appear in *Waddell*.

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As each and every element of the claimed invention fails to be disclosed, taught or suggested in the cited reference, rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiners allowance of claims 12-19.

The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 6, 10 and 11 would be allowable if placed into independent form. Because the independent claim 1 from which the objected claims further depend is believed to be allowable, these claims should also be allowable in their present form.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

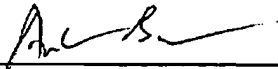


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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No 703 872-9306) on October 21, 2004.*



Andrew D. Babcock